

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-17 and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 8, 15 and 20 have been amended. Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

It is noted with appreciation that the Office Action has indicated that claims 8, 15 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims. Allowable claims 8 and 20 have been amended to include the limitations of independent claim 1, there being no intervening claims. Allowable claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of independent claim 7, there being no intervening claims. Therefore, claims 8, 15 and 20 are now in condition to be allowed.


Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 19 and 18, respectively, there being no intervening claims. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 7 and their respective dependent claims 2, 4-6, 9 and 10 and 11-14, 16 and 17 are now in condition to be allowed.

Thus, all of the pending claims 1, 2, 4-17 and 20 are now in condition for allowance. For this reason it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,760,510 to Kimura, hereafter Kimura, and under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Kimura are obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that claims 1, 2, 4-17 and 20 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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